

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action dated August 6, 2004.

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 2, 4, 8, and 10 to 14 have been amended. Claims 2 to 26 remain pending in this application. Claims 15 to 26 have been allowed, and claims 2 to 7, 9, 12 and 13 have been indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter.

As suggested by the Examiner, claims 2, 12 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their original base claim 1 and any intervening claims. In addition, claims 4, 8, 10, 11 and 14 have been amended to depend upon claim 2. Accordingly, claims 2 to 14 are now believed to be in clear condition for allowance.

Since claim 1 has been canceled and claims 15 to 26 have already been allowed, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims 2 to 26 in this application are now in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance for this application is respectfully requested.

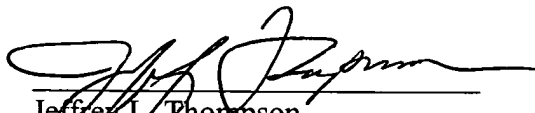
Serial No. 10/656,454
Docket No. GRI-002

PATENT APPLICATION

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application into even better form, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: **November 4, 2004**


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